

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration FormNATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Agricultural & Technical College of North Carolina Historic District
other names/site number North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University
North Carolina A & T

2. Location

street & number E. side Dudley St. btw. Bluford St. & Headen Dr. not for publication N/A
city, town Greensboro vicinity N/A
state North Carolina code 037 county Guilford code 081 zip code 27411

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☐ private
☐ public-local
☒ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
5	buildings
1	sites
	structures
	objects
6	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

9-7-88

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.☐ other, (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use	
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Education: College	Education: College

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
Classical Revival	foundation brick
Colonial Revival	walls brick
	roof tin
	other stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina Historic District includes approximately 10.10 acres and five red brick Classical and Georgian Revival style academic, administrative, and student services buildings, all located in the northwest corner of the 180-acre, 60-building main campus of the university (renamed in 1972, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University). The urban campus is located in a mixed residential and commercial neighborhood about one mile east, and within sight of, downtown Greensboro. (The university also owns and operates a 600-acre laboratory farm with 30 farm buildings located east of the City limits.)

The irregularly shaped historic district is bounded by portions of Dudley and Bluford streets (city thoroughfares) and Arthur Headen Drive and Nocho Street (university roads) and includes the traditional main entrance to the university, an elliptical paved driveway, and a 1.5-acre grassy lawn which provides a 300 yard deep buffer and setback from Dudley Street to the district's buildings, and five of the university's oldest surviving and virtually unaltered buildings, constructed between 1922 and 1939, which form the historic core of the campus. These buildings are the (former) main administrative building, Dudley Memorial Building, constructed in 1930; Morrison Hall, a dormitory constructed in 1923; Noble Hall, a classroom building constructed in 1922; Murphy Hall, built in 1923 as the cafeteria and now housing various student services offices; and the Richard B. Harrison Auditorium constructed in 1939. Dudley Memorial Building faces west and stands close by the center of the entrance driveway and immediately behind "University Circle" which originally contained a small reflecting pool, currently filled in and planted with shrubs and flower beds. Morrison and Noble Halls stand at 90° angles to and close by Dudley, facing each other across the circle at the south and north respectively. Murphy Hall faces north and stands approximately 300 yards east of and on a line with Morrison Hall. Harrison Auditorium faces west and stands opposite Murphy Hall. (See sketch map.) Throughout the nominated area (and the rest of the university as well), the campus is characterized by careful maintenance of the buildings and the attractive, landscaped, level grounds. Paved walkways, part of a campus-wide network, connect the buildings. Mature deciduous and evergreen trees shade the grounds and commemorative benches and plaques, placed by various student organizations, dot the lawns.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Education

Ethnic Heritage: Black

Architecture

Period of Significance

1922-1939

Significant Dates

1922

1923

1939

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder

Hartmann, Charles C.

McMinn, Leon, Public Works Admin.

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Classical Revival style administrative, academic and student services buildings which comprise the Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina Historic District include five of the oldest surviving buildings on North Carolina's first black land-grant university campus. Established in 1891 in Raleigh as the Agricultural and Mechanical College for the Colored Race, the campus was moved to Greensboro in 1893 where the college grew steadily to become one of the nation's premier historically black institutions of higher education in the field of agriculture and technical arts. (In 1972 the college was renamed North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University.) The district's buildings--Dudley Memorial, Noble Hall, Morrison Hall, Murphy Hall and Richard B. Harrison Auditorium--date from 1922 to 1939 and represent the university's second and third major building campaigns (none of the original nineteenth century buildings survive). The 1920s buildings were funded by the North Carolina Legislature with what was then the largest sum ever appropriated for Negro education in the South. Harrison Auditorium, 1939, was built by the Public Works Administration. These virtually unaltered, handsome brick buildings form the historic core of the now greatly expanded campus and are excellent representative examples of the Classical Revival, a popular style for early twentieth century academic buildings. They represent the work both of unknown skilled designers and masons, and prominent Greensboro architect, Charles C. Hartmann, designer of Dudley Memorial Building and one of North Carolina's most important architects practicing in the post-World War I era. The buildings were erected as the university was phasing out its college preparatory department and beginning to focus on college level work to prepare graduates for careers and graduate and professional schools. The buildings of the historic district reflect not only this early state institution for black education, but also the evolution of higher education for the state's black citizens.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ University Bluford Lib., N.C. A&T
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approx. 10.10 acres

UTM References

A	1,7	609940	3992800
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1,7	610250	3992560

B	1,7	610260	3992790
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1,7	609920	3992580

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

☒ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia S. Dickinson, Consultant

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All of the buildings included in this nomination are of fireproof construction with steel trusses and textured, variegated brick walls laid in a running bond. They are rectangular in shape, one to three stories tall with flat or hipped roofs, and have rectangular or arched sash windows. They are all handsome, dignified, symmetrical buildings which display a wide variety of carefully detailed neoclassical elements including string courses, (brick or stone) quoining, molded or incised stone cornices, ornamented entrance and window surrounds, and splayed arches with keystones. Each building displays a slightly different interpretation of the Classical Revival style, a popular style for early twentieth century academic buildings. They range in sophistication from the academically correct, highly detailed Dudley Memorial Building designed by prominent Greensboro architect, Charles C. Hartmann; to the nearly identical Morrison and Noble Halls, with parapeted eaves and recessed panels with herringbone or basketweave pattern brickwork reminiscent of scores of early twentieth century vernacular North Carolina brick commercial buildings; to Harrison Auditorium, the most austere of the group, with ornamentation confined to simple brick pilasters marking the entrance bays and an incised stone cornice. Harrison Auditorium was designed by Leon McMinn, of the Federal Works Agency.

It is interesting to note that the bricks used in the three original campus buildings, constructed c. 1893 (all destroyed by fire or demolition), were made on site by students in the Department of Industries (masonry/brick laying trades). According to the current University Engineer, Ronald Gales, the campus soil contains a good clay mixture for bricks. (Personal interview, March 2, 1988). Gales also noted that, according to campus tradition, the bricks for the nominated 1920s buildings were also made at the campus brickyard. With the exception of Dudley Memorial and Harrison Auditorium, the designer of the district's other buildings is unknown. The Engineer's Office is attempting to acquire a library of original blueprints and specifications if and as they become available.

Dudley Memorial Building, Morrison Hall, Harrison Auditorium and Noble Hall remain virtually unaltered on the exterior. The only apparent alterations on Dudley and Noble are the replacement metal-trimmed plate glass entrance doors; Morrison Hall, however, retains its original double-leaf wooden doors with six glass panes above molded panels in each leaf, the pair surmounted by a fanlight. Murphy Hall retains its architectural integrity although it has been altered with the 1979 application of incongruous, small ribbed metal awnings over each entrance, and the installation of replacement metal-trimmed arched windows similar in design to the original wood, sash windows; also, several windows on the rear elevation were bricked in within the last decade.

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The interiors of all the buildings have been moderately altered or refurbished over the years, as the university's administrative and classroom space needs changed. Probably the least altered building is Morrison Hall which has remained a dormitory (first for men, currently for women) since its construction. It retains the original plaster walls, molded door and window trim and the original layout featuring a communal parlor centered on the first floor, opposite the main entrance. The parlor retains the original transomed French door entrance. Noble Hall also appears largely unaltered on the interior, as does Dudley Memorial, each retaining the original plaster walls and handsome, molded door and window surrounds. Harrison Auditorium's original wooden seats were replaced by padded, upholstered ones in recent years.

INVENTORY LIST: (numbers keyed to sketch map; all buildings and sites listed are considered Contributing.)

C 1. Lawn and University Circle. Approximately 1.5-acre grassy lawn and circular shrub and flower bed, encircled by the paved main entrance to the university. Dotted with memorial stone benches and shaded by mature deciduous and evergreen trees, the lawn provides a serene park-like setting for Dudley Memorial Building, Morrison and Noble Halls which stand adjacent to the lawn and driveway. The lawn provides a 300 yard wide green buffer between these buildings and Dudley Street, a major Greensboro city north/south thoroughfare.

C 2. Noble Hall. Constructed in 1922 and named to honor Marcus C.S. Noble, longtime Chairman of the University's Board of Trustees, this building is three stories with a full basement, nine-bays wide and three-bays deep, and contains 20,672 square feet of office and classroom space. The building originally housed the School of Agriculture and School of Home Economics on the first floor. The top floors housed the Biology and Chemistry Departments and the Dairy Science laboratory was located in the basement. Currently the administrative offices of the School of Nursing (est. 1953) are located on the first floor, with classrooms on the upper floors. Noble Hall is lit by paired six-over-one sash windows with splayed arches on the first and third story windows and flat arches on the second story windows. Each window pair is accented with a center (white stone) keystone. Slightly recessed corbelled panels, ornamented by herringbone brickwork and a center, diamond-shaped white stone, stretch above the second story windows. Rusticated brick quoins define the corners of the rectangular building and the first story elevation brickwork simulates smooth rustication. Stone is used to create the string courses, window

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sills, molded frieze and cornice. A triangular parapet is centered in the eave above the main (south) entrance, with rectangular parapets ornamenting the eave above the east and west (end) entrances. The entrances are the most elaborately ornamented features of the building. All of the three entrance bays project slightly, and have (replacement) glass doors set in recessed wood paneled jambs beneath rusticated brick arches. Small stone non-functional balconies supported by scrolled modillions surmount each entrance; at the main entrance the center, second story windows are surrounded by a finely carved stone panel upon which the building's name is incised.

C 3. Dudley Memorial Building. The centerpiece of the campus and its most architecturally distinctive building, Dudley Memorial was designed by prominent Greensboro architect, Charles C. Hartmann and constructed in 1930. It is located on the site of the university's first administration building which burned earlier that year. Both buildings were named Dudley Memorial to honor the university's second president, James Benson Dudley (1896-1925). The present 29,058 square foot building served as the main administration building until 1982 when most of the central administrative offices were moved to the new Lewis C. Dowdy Administration Building. In addition to offices, Dudley Memorial originally contained an auditorium on the main floor as well as the library on the top floor. Today Dudley contains various administrative offices including those for the Summer School and Continuing Education Department. The building is two stories with a full raised basement, twenty-one bays wide and five bays deep. It features the most lavish application of stone on any of the campus buildings and is used for quoins (brick quoins at the basement level), string course, broad sweep of fifteen steps to the main entrance, smooth-face blocks defining a five-bay entrance, intricately carved lintels and acroteria, full classical entablature, splayed arches with keystones over the eight-over-twelve sash windows, and an elegant and imposing hexastyle Ionic portico with an incised frieze. The rear elevation features a nine-bay wide projecting center bay; here the belt course is composed of basketweave pattern brick, rather than stone. The building is unaltered except for replacement double-leaf metal-trimmed plate glass entrance doors.

C 4. Morrison Hall. Constructed in 1924 and named for North Carolina Governor Cameron Morrison (1921-1925), this dormitory building is almost identical to Noble Hall, except that it is eleven bays wide and rusticated stone, rather than brick, surrounds the main entrance; also, here the carved and incised stone name panel above the non-functional balcony extends to surround the center third story windows as well. Morrison Hall retains the original double-leaf main entrance doors. The building housed men students until c. 1940; since that time it has served as a women's dormitory.

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C 5. Murphy Hall. This one-story, 26,002 square foot, thirteen-bay wide and three-bay deep building was constructed in 1923 and used for many years as the student cafeteria. Today it is the Student Services Building and houses a variety of associated offices including counseling, testing, career placement, housing, international and minority students, veterans affairs office, etc. The symmetrical building is distinguished by a projecting, pedimented three-bay entrance pavilion with rusticated brick and a full-height arched rusticated brick door surround. The pavilion is also ornamented with four full-height brick pilasters with stone capitals and bases, stone panels carved with an urn and garland motif, a full entablature with bullseyes and incised building name, and a multi-pane ocular window in the pediment. The building was remodeled in 1977. The original arched wooden sash windows were removed then and replaced with twenty-pane windows with aluminum muntins; also at that time, ribbed metal awnings were installed at the main (north) and west (side) entrances. The interior was also remodeled and the original high-ceilinged dining area was divided into two floors; an open string staircase with metal railings and a passenger elevator were installed to give access to the mezzanine-level offices.

C 6. Richard B. Harrison Auditorium. This rectangular, flat-roofed two-story building with a full basement at the rear was constructed in 1939 by the Federal Works Agency, Public Works Administration for use as the university's main auditorium. According to a lobby plaque, Leon McMinn was the architect and H. L. Coble, the contractor. The building stands close to the sidewalk and is shaded by mature dogwoods and oaks. Ornamentation on this austere building is confined to the seven-bay main entrance with the bays defined by plain brick pilasters with simply molded stone bases and capitals. Extending above the pilasters is a plain stone frieze incised with the auditorium's name. Five pairs of glass and wood doors topped by five-light transoms give access to the lobby. Above each entry door at the second story level are large twelve-over-twelve sash windows. The roof line steps up at the rear of the lobby/entrance portion of the building to provide additional height to the main, large auditorium portion of the building. On the interior, the lobby is very plain with linoleum floor and a small, horseshoe-shaped box office outlined by simply molded wooden trim. The auditorium seats approximately 1,000 (twenty-five rows on the ground floor and ten rows in the shallow balcony). The upholstered seats are arranged in three sections (two aisles). A shallow floor level orchestra pit with a molded railing is located below the rectangular proscenium. A variety of offices are located on the first and second stories at the rear of the building. The auditorium is named for Richard Berry Harrison who taught drama and directed plays at the

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university during the 1920s and 1930s. Harrison is best known, however, for his role as "De Lawd" in the long-running Broadway play Green Pastures by Eugene O'Neill. The university's present dramatic organization, The Richard B. Harrison Players, is named to honor the teacher and actor.

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Historic Context:

Prior to the Civil War, American institutions of higher learning were almost exclusively liberal arts colleges for a few well-heeled white students. When the War disrupted the flow of agricultural products from the South and pointed up the dearth of skilled mechanics and artisans to produce and repair military equipment and railroads, Congress took note and in 1862 passed a bill sponsored by Vermont Senator Justin H. Morrill which addressed the need to train people in agriculture and the mechanical arts. The Morrill Act, and the "land-grant" colleges it created, instituted far reaching changes in the pattern of American higher education.

The Federal government had no spare cash to spend on training programs in the agricultural and mechanical arts, but it did have a lot of available land. The Morrill Act granted each state and territory a certain amount of land it could sell, with the proceeds to be used for

. . .the endowment, support and maintenance of at least one college where the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and mechanical arts in such manner . . .to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the pursuit and professions in life. [as quoted in Gibbs, p. 2]

The Morrill Act was amended a few times and North Carolina A & T was established under the law as amended in 1890. The law mandated that land-grant colleges were to be coeducational and open to all races, but it was acceptable for the races to have "separate facilities" if the funds were equitably divided. By 1889 the Agricultural and Mechanical College for the White Race (now North Carolina State University) was established in Raleigh and was ready, willing, but not able to receive Federal funds until provisions were made for the state's black students. The school's white trustees made arrangements with Shaw University, a black liberal arts college in Raleigh, to temporarily house the Agricultural and Mechanical College for the Colored Race, formally established by the Legislature on March 9, 1891. The college, with a first

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year enrollment of thirty-seven students, operated as an annex to Shaw from 1890-1893. [Spruill, Recollections, p. 2]

Historic Background:

In 1893 a group of interested Greensboro citizens offered the fledgling college fourteen acres of land off E. Market Street and \$11,000 in a bid to relocate the black A & M college in Greensboro. The offer was accepted, the Legislature appropriated an additional \$2,500, the first campus building was completed in 1893 and the college opened in Greensboro in the Fall of that year. [Spruill, Recollections, p. 3]

The college's first president, Dr. J. O. Crosby (1892-1896) designed the main administration building and made the first brick with which it was constructed. [Kelley, p. 12] He also designed a dormitory and classroom building. Students in the Department of Industries laid the bricks for the three original campus buildings. (Before the advent of the North Carolina system of technical institutes and community colleges, A & T produced many of the state's carpenters, masons and other tradesmen including tailors, heating and refrigeration specialists, cobblers, radio/TV repairmen and the like. [Spruill, Tour, p. 23]) A brickyard and kiln were located on campus as a part of the Department. "The Brick and Plastering Departments, in cooperation, took contracts so that the students not only learned to make bricks, but also to build the products of their own labor into neat and imposing structures. As a result, the young men could trace with delight, the crude clay from a barren field, through the various processes of the brickyard to the magnificent edifices of the thoroughfares of Greensboro." [Kelley, p. 22]

None of the original nineteenth century campus buildings survive, but documentary photographs reveal the buildings were substantial, extremely handsome and somewhat fanciful in their ornament. For instance, the original Dudley Building (destroyed by fire in 1930 and replaced by the present Dudley Memorial Building) was a symmetrical three-and-one-half story brick building with a high hip roof sprouting gabled dormers, ogee-roofed gables, and cupolas decorated with spindle work and iron cresting; the building also had tall, ornately corbelled exterior end chimneys, a projecting bow-front entrance bay with a two-story round-arch entrance striped with alternating red and white corbels. North Dormitory (destroyed) had a gable-on-hip roof topped with a square, spindled cupola.

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At first, attracting qualified students to fill these beautiful and impressive buildings was difficult. Some parents, who already earned a living as farmers, thought it unnecessary for their children to attend college to study agriculture, and instead desired the perceived better social and economic advancement afforded by a liberal arts education. Many other potential students lacked an adequate college preparatory education. A & M responded by developing a high school level preparatory curriculum which was successful in attracting and preparing the college's future students. [Gibbs, p. 10]

Under the administration of James Benson Dudley, 1896-1925, the college grew steadily and slowly expanded its curriculum. In 1915 the Agricultural and Mechanical College for the Colored Race was renamed The Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina. During World War I President Dudley offered A & T's facilities to the United States government for a military training camp. In consonance with land-grant college traditional purposes, which included military training, during that war A & T trained more upper-echelon non-commissioned officers for the armed forces than any other historically black school in the nation. [Spruill, Tour, p. 34] Many of the trainees found jobs in the Mobile Ordnance Repair Shop at Camp Funston, Kansas, while others were assigned as skilled mechanics in the U.S. Arsenal at Watervliet, New York. [Kelley, p. 24] (This military tradition continued and in World War II, the largest Reserve Officer Training Corps for Negroes in the United States was located at A & T. [Bluford Scrapbook, undated newspaper photo caption] Currently, the university maintains an active ROTC unit, as well having Departments of Military and Aerospace Studies.) In 1920 the Schools of Education and General Studies were established.

Near the close of Dudley's administration, the N.C. Legislature appropriated about \$615,000 for capital improvements, then the "largest sum ever appropriated by a southern state for Negro higher education." [Kelley, p. 25] The money paid for three of the historic district's new buildings, constructed between 1922-1924. They were: Morrison Hall, a dormitory; Murphy Hall, which included the dining room, kitchen and ice plant; and Noble Hall which housed the Agriculture Department. With steady growth, the college had outgrown the aging, original campus buildings and the new structures had been urgently needed for some time. During this period A & T was phasing out its high school (college prep) department and

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beginning to focus solely on college-level work to prepare graduates for careers and graduate or professional schools. [Gibbs, p. 59] The new buildings, Noble Hall particularly, reflected this shift to professionalism since it housed up-to-date laboratories to serve the new and expanded curriculum in sciences and agriculture. When the original Dudley Memorial Building burned in 1930, Charles C. Hartmann, a well-known Greensboro architect, was commissioned to design the new main administration building. Certainly the choice of such a prominent architect reflected the newly elevated status of the college.

During the decades of the 1920s and 1930s under the administration of the university's third president, Ferdinand Bluford (1925-1955), the curriculum was expanded to include a number of new areas of study including a Department of Home Economics in 1928, School of Graduate Studies in 1933, and graduate program in Education by 1939. The Summer School Department was established during this era, and is today notable for being one of the oldest continuing summer sessions in the nation. Enrollment exploded from 674 in 1936, 800 in 1938, to 2,217 in 1939. The School of Agriculture, one of the college's pioneering schools, boasted the largest enrollment of any black school in the country. Its graduates led in the development of agriculture programs in North Carolina, Virginia, Florida, Tennessee, and West Virginia. [Spruill, p. 25] More doctorates were earned by graduates of this school than any other single agency of the college; these graduates served in widely varied fields such as teaching, government service, business and industry, and at the community level with the Agricultural Extension Service.

An important new building, the Richard B. Harrison Auditorium, was constructed in the historic district in 1939. Designed by Leon McMinn, this austere building is a good representative example of structures built during this era by the Public Works Administration. It was named to honor A & T's popular dramatics instructor (1923-31) and Broadway star, Richard B. Harrison, "De Lawd" in Eugene O'Neill's long-running Biblical play, Green Pastures. [Gibbs, pp. 83-85]. Several other new buildings were added to the campus in 1939 including the Annie M. Holland Dormitory, the Florence Garrett (Home Economics) Practice House, the Reed House (which now houses a fine African Art collection), the Register and Gamble houses (now in use as office buildings), and Graham Hall (Engineering School building). These buildings survive, scattered among newer campus buildings.

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During the 1940s the school more than doubled its enrollment from 2,217 in 1940 to 5,435 in 1948. Construction activities were halted by World War II.

Construction in the early 1950s was prodigious and almost continuous: thirteen buildings were constructed between 1951 and 1955. This tremendous building campaign included a new President's House (located on the north edge of the lawn in front of Dudley Memorial), two men's and one women's dormitories, agricultural extension building, home economics building, gymnasium, infirmary, dairy products building, Bluford Library, engineering building, and School of Education Building. An April 6, 1952 Greensboro Daily News clipping, pasted in Dr. Bluford's personal scrapbook, outlined this vigorous post-War expansion. Under the headline "A & T's Rapid Rise is Cited: School is Unusual Success Story," the newspaper reported that A & T was the "nation's leading Negro institution devoted to training youth in agriculture and technical skills," as well as being the nation's second largest such school. A & T graduates then filled 87% of the positions in the North Carolina Negro Extension Service; its graduates included 74% of the vocational agriculture teachers in the state and nearly one-half of the black (general education) teachers in the state. The school was one of three Negro institutions in the United States that trained officers for two branches of the armed services, the Army and Air Force. This decade in the college's history ended with a new President assuming office, Dr. Warmoth T. Gibbs (1956-1960); a name change, to North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College; and an honor, accreditation by and admittance to the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in December 1959. Also, in 1957, the first white student enrolled at A & T. Of North Carolina's then twelve state supported and twenty-two privately supported senior colleges, A & T was the fourth largest.

The decades of the 1960s and 1970s brought further expansion in enrollment, physical facilities and faculty. But it was the actions of a group of four resolute freshmen students who brought the college, the city of Greensboro, and the emerging civil rights movement to the wide-spread attention of the nation. On February 1, 1960 the students walked into downtown Greensboro, entered Woolworth's Five & Dime and sat down at the lunch counter to eat, thus initiating what became popularly known as "sit-ins." When the students insisted on service, the store manager closed the lunch counter, and the students left. The next day they were joined at the lunch counter by fellow A & T students and others from several

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Greensboro colleges and universities including nearby Bennett College, Women's College of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro College, and Guilford College. According to President Gibbs, "This situation was new. . . . The students were not acting as they were expected to act." [Gibbs, p. 71] The police hesitated to act because, apparently, no law was being violated. Other local businesses experienced sit-ins by black (and white) students. A committee of the various college administrators and store managers, with no precedents to follow, met and negotiated. They kept to the peaceful "high road" and many businesses agreed to integrate, with the support of the Mayor, City Manager and the Police. They all set a united, peaceful example and Greensboro bypassed the severe racial tension that disrupted many American cities during this era. According to Gibbs, the students' actions "resulted in the defeat of many ugly practices and the beginning of a new era in American history." [Gibbs, p. 72] Blacks and whites in sympathy spread sit-ins across the country. The largest and most sustained series of sit-ins occurred in the spring of 1963, a prelude to the National Civil Rights March on Washington in August. More than 1,000 A & T students were arrested at demonstrations that year, but nearly all of the charges were ultimately dropped. [Gibbs, p. 125] One of A & T's students at this time was Jesse Jackson, who went on to become a respected minister, a leader in the civil rights movement, and in 1988, a serious candidate for the Democratic Party presidential nomination.

The campus continued its physical expansion in the 1970s with the purchase (from the Redevelopment Commission of Greensboro) of the former Lutheran College property which contained several buildings and nearby tracts of land on Dudley and Market streets, and acreage for various athletic practice fields. [Institutional Self-Study, p.3] In 1972 A & T became one of sixteen constituent institutions of the University of North Carolina and was renamed North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, the present name. The newest campus building, dedicated in June 1987, is the \$8.5 million Ronald E. McNair Hall, containing the Engineering Department and named to honor a distinguished alumnus. McNair, a 1971 graduate, with a doctorate in physics from MIT, was the first United States astronaut from an historically black university. Ronald McNair was one of seven people killed in the explosion of the space shuttle, Challenger, in January 1986.

Campus historian Albert W. Spruill summed up the history of the university's steady, impressive growth in his 1982 book, The

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Historic Tour of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University:

. . .have grown from an insignificant division temporarily hidden at private Shaw University to enable colored people to participate in public education of a land-grant college nature into an individual campus with seven distinguished Schools [Agriculture, Business and Economics, Education, Technology, Engineering, Nursing, Graduate], student body of 5,500 students, and nearly fifty departments serving the human race. . . . have moved from an unheralded academic entity to a University where all schools enjoy national acclaim. The school started on a shoestring budget and borrowed physical quarters. . . now an annual budget of \$37,791,025 and a physical plant valued at \$50,707,060 and land covering 797.9 acres. [Spruill, p. 40]

Architectural Context:

The Classical and Georgian Revival styles were popular choices for American university campuses constructed in the 1920-30s and so it is not surprising that the designers of A & T's "new campus" (which replaced the original c.1895 buildings) chose these styles for the historic district's five buildings. A number of campuses in the nation and North Carolina employ these styles in a whole-campus plan or in part, with a few buildings representing the styles. Two particularly good regional examples of the styles' use are represented by Duke University's East Campus and North Carolina Central University's Historic District (NR, 1984), both liberal arts universities located in Durham, North Carolina; Duke has traditionally had a white student body, and NCCU, a black student body. The buildings on both of these campuses are often strikingly similar to those in A & T's historic district, again, not surprising since all of the campuses were designed and constructed within a short period (A & T, 1922-1939; Duke--East Campus, 1927; NCCU, 1925-1930). Duke--West Campus, 1930, is designed in the Gothic Revival style, the other major popular style for collegiate architecture of the period. Historian William Blackburn wrote in 1937 about the popularity of both of these period revival styles:

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. . .among them who love early America and the South, Georgian architecture seems more indigenous to our soil than Gothic and therefore more appropriate for collegiate buildings. . . . After a century of growth without plan and architectural improvisation without style, American academic institutions, at the turn of the twentieth century, seem to have settled upon Georgian and Gothic as the two styles most fitting for collegiate structures. The choice of either style is characteristic of the conservative nature of our institutions and is indicative of America's having come of age sufficiently to remember the past. [Blackburn, p. 6]

Six dormitories and two classroom buildings on Duke's East Campus exhibit several features in common with Noble and Morrison Halls on the A & T campus. These include their two-story height, brick quoining, splayed arches with keystone over sash windows, limestone belt courses, arched entrances topped with fanlights set in paneled jambs, double-leaf entrance doors, non-functional balconies above the entrance, and embellished window surrounds at the center second-story window. The Duke East Campus Library and dining hall (twin buildings) and Baldwin Auditorium are each dominated by a finely detailed Ionic hexastyle portico, quite similar to the one found on Dudley Memorial Building at A & T. Harrison Auditorium at A & T and B.N. Duke Auditorium at NCCU were both constructed in the late 1930s under the auspices of the Public Works Administration. Both continue the classical revival architectural tradition established in the 1920s on their respective campuses. Harrison is an austere building, while Duke Auditorium is ornamented with Corinthian columns at the entrance.

On the North Carolina Central University campus, the Alexander Dunn Building which originally housed the cafeteria is notably similar to A & T's Murphy Hall, also originally a cafeteria. They are both one-story tall and have hip roofs, brick quoining, projecting entrance bays with pediments and arched entrances (closed pediment on Murphy Hall, open with returns on Dunn Building), urn and garland swags, and arched segmental window planes. The Clyde R. Hoey (Main Administration) Building does not have a hexastyle portico like Dudley's, but they do share in common a lavish use of stone accents such as quoining and splayed arches, a commanding central campus location and large, symmetrical, rectangular shapes.

The major buildings on the campuses of A & T, Duke, and North

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Carolina Central were all designed by important architects of the era. Charles C. Hartmann designed Dudley Memorial Building; Duke hired nationally prominent architect Horace Trumbauer to design both of its campuses; and the Durham architectural firm of Atwood and Nash, known for their elegant commercial and institutional buildings, designed the NCCU campus. [Brown, NR nomination] The present campus of Duke University was largely the creation of James B. Duke, an extremely wealthy tobacco industrialist and philanthropist. Duke was living in New Jersey at the time and was familiar with Trumbauer's work and the palatial estates the architect had designed in the area. James B. Duke wanted Trumbauer to execute his grand scheme for a university campus, and he could afford him. NCCU and A & T were state funded schools, and although both had received generous appropriations from the Legislature in 1925 for capital improvements, their funds were certainly not unlimited. Both schools hired well-respected, regionally prominent architects to design their important main buildings. The fashionable and dignified buildings that Atwood and Nash, and Charles C. Hartmann executed for NCCU and A & T respectively, were appropriate to the schools' high status in their communities. Both schools wanted, and got, the best architects available to design buildings which proclaimed their statewide significance in the higher education of North Carolina's black citizens.

(The following information on Charles C. Hartmann is taken from a working draft of an entry to be included in the forthcoming North Carolina Builders and Architects. File located at the Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.)

Charles C. Hartmann (1889-1978) had moved to Greensboro in 1921 where he quickly became one of the city's, and piedmont North Carolina's, best known and most in-demand architects. Hartmann, a New York native, studied architecture at MIT, apprenticed in the New York firm of Warren & Wetmore, moonlighted as a draftsman for Stanford White, and studied evenings with one of the many Beaux Arts ateliers sponsored by New York architects at the turn of this century. He worked for William L. Stoddart in New York, moving up from draftsman to associate partner by the time he left the firm. About 1917 he began traveling frequently to North Carolina, inspecting the progress of two Stoddart commissions for which he had been chief designer, the O'Henry Hotel in Greensboro and the Sheraton Hotel in nearby High Point. The Greensboro business

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community liked Hartmann and in 1921 Julian Price, a brilliant financier and insurance magnate, commissioned Hartmann to design the Greensboro headquarters for his Jefferson Standard Insurance Company. Hartmann moved to Greensboro in 1921 and established his own firm.

The Jefferson Standard Building was Hartmann's grandest commission of the 1920s. The seventeen-story U-shaped granite and terra cotta sheathed steel-framed building displays an eclectic combination of Classical, Gothic and Art Deco decorative motifs. When constructed in 1922, it was the tallest and most modern structure of its type in the South. It dominates the Greensboro skyline even today, and embodies the mushrooming urbanization of North Carolina's towns in the 1920s. Hartmann played a pivotal role in the spread of high-rise downtown bank and office buildings in several North Carolina piedmont and coastal plains towns. His neoclassical institutional structures were usually the tallest bank and office buildings erected in the communities, and usually served as a financial and professional hub on main street. The most notable of Hartmann's skyscrapers include the Commercial National Bank of High Point, 1922; First National Bank Building in Wilson, 1924; and Cumberland National Bank of Fayetteville, 1926. All are carefully detailed neoclassical buildings with elaborate cornices, columns and quoining. In addition to office buildings, Hartmann also designed private residences (including a fine Tudor Revival style residence for Julian Price, 1929), as well as a number of academic buildings on various North Carolina campuses including Bennett College in Greensboro and Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory. He also designed several hospitals and hotels elsewhere in the state. Preliminary research on Hartmann's career has begun and a cursory listing of his work includes some fifty major buildings erected between 1922 and 1946, when he retired and his son, Charles C. Hartmann, Jr. became head of the firm.

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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning at the southeast corner of Dudley Street and Arthur Headen Drive (a university service road) the boundary line follows the northern edge of Arthur Headen Drive approximately 700' east to the intersection of Headen Dr. and Nocho St. The line then turns and extends south approximately 50', running along the eastern edge of Nocho St. The line then runs generally east, following paved campus walkways, along the rear of Murphy Hall to include that building. The line then turns and extends approximately 475' north, running along the inside edge of a paved walkway which runs along Murphy Hall's eastern elevation and Harrison Auditorium's rear elevation to the walkway's intersection with Bluford Street. The line then runs west along the southern edge of Bluford Street for approximately 200' to a paved walkway which marks the eastern edge of the lawn at the rear of Dudley Memorial Building. The line then extends approximately 250' west to a walkway which runs between Dudley Memorial Building and Noble Hall. The line then extends approximately 110' northeast along a walkway to its intersection with Bluford Street where the line turns and runs west along the inner edge of the street at the rear of Noble Hall to encompass that building. The line then extends diagonally southeast to a walkway and then follows the walkway which runs generally northwest in front of the President's House (this house is excluded from the district) to Dudley Street where the line turns and runs south along the east side of Dudley Street to the point of origin.

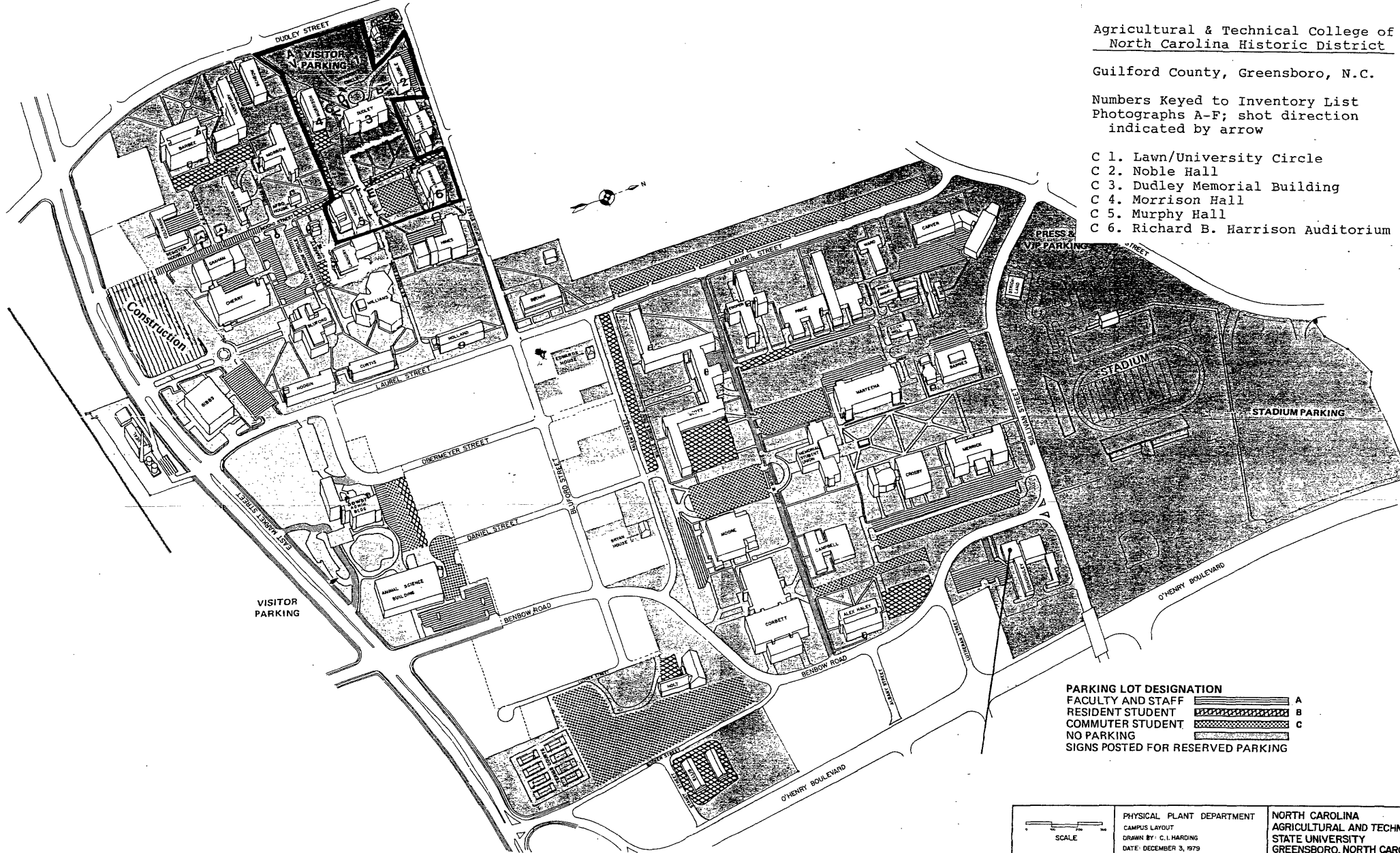
Boundary Justification: The boundaries of the historic district have been drawn to include a cluster of five of the oldest surviving buildings on the N.C. A & T campus. These buildings are Noble Hall, Dudley Memorial Building, Morrison Hall, Murphy Hall and Richard B. Harrison Auditorium, all constructed between 1922 and 1939. These buildings represent the historic core of the now greatly expanded campus. Also included in the district are the various lawn areas which surround the buildings, in particular the 1.5-acre lawn which abuts Morrison, Dudley and Noble which provides a deep, green buffer between the buildings and Dudley Street. The district boundary has been drawn to exclude later university buildings at the south, east and north.

Agricultural & Technical College of
North Carolina Historic District

Guilford County, Greensboro, N.C.

Numbers Keyed to Inventory List
Photographs A-F; shot direction
indicated by arrow

- C 1. Lawn/University Circle
- C 2. Noble Hall
- C 3. Dudley Memorial Building
- C 4. Morrison Hall
- C 5. Murphy Hall
- C 6. Richard B. Harrison Auditorium



PARKING LOT DESIGNATION

FACULTY AND STAFF	A
RESIDENT STUDENT	B
COMMUTER STUDENT	C
NO PARKING	
SIGNS POSTED FOR RESERVED PARKING	

<p>SCALE</p>	<p>PHYSICAL PLANT DEPARTMENT CAMPUS LAYOUT DRAWN BY: C.I. HARDING DATE: DECEMBER 3, 1979</p>	<p>NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA</p>
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